

from the collector. The one new species contained in the collection has been described by Mr. Ridgway as *Geothlypis flavovellatus*. (See *antea*, p. 330).—F. M. C.

Richmond on New Species of Birds.¹—Mr. Richmond here describes *Aegialitis thoracica*, apparently most nearly related to *A. varia*, and *Phlegopsis saturata*, a Nicaraguan representative of the Panama *P. macleani*.—F. M. C.

Dr. Abbott's Collections from Asia.²—The two papers here cited are detailed lists of the birds collected by Dr. Abbott, giving the data of each specimen, including color of the irides, bill, and feet. The first paper is based on 746 specimens, referable to 188 species; the second, on 210 specimens, representing 98 species. *Cyanecula abbotti* from Ladak, *Merula merula intermedia* from Eastern Turkestan, and *Aegialitis pamirensis* from Pamir, are described as new.—F. M. C.

Dr. Abbott's Collections from the Seychelles and other Islands.³—This paper is an important contribution to our knowledge of the distribution of birds in these Madagascan islands. Sixteen land birds are recorded from the Seychelles group, eight from the Amirante group, four from Assumption Island, eight from Gloriosa Island, and twenty from Aldabra Island. Dr. Abbott's field-notes relate almost wholly to the birds of the last named

¹ 1. Description of a New Species of Plover from the East Coast of Madagascar. By Charles W. Richmond. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., X, March 14, 1896, p. 53.

2. Description of a New Species of Ant Thrush from Nicaragua. By Charles W. Richmond, Assistant Curator of the Department of Birds. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, p. 625.

² 1. Catalogue of a Collection of Birds made by Dr. W. L. Abbott in Kashmir, Balistan and Ladak, with Notes on Some of the Species, and a Description of a New Species of *Cyanecula*. By Charles W. Richmond, Assistant Curator of the Department of Birds. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, 1896, pp. 451-503.

2. Catalogue of a Collection of Birds made by Dr. W. L. Abbott, in Eastern Turkestan, the Thian-Shan Mountains, and Tagdumbash Pamir, Central Asia, with Notes on Some of the Species. By Charles W. Richmond, Assistant Curator of the Department of Birds. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, 1896, pp. 569-576.

³ On Birds Collected by Doctor W. L. Abbott in the Seychelles, Amirantes, Gloriosa, Assumption, Aldabra, and Adjacent Islands, with Notes on Habits, etc., by the Collector. By Robert Ridgway, Curator of the Department of Birds. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, 1896, pp. 509-546.

island. His observations on the flightless Rail (*Dryolimnas aldabranus*) are particularly interesting.

Thirteen of the birds collected by Dr. Abbott in these islands have been previously described as new by Mr. Ridgway¹, and the name *Turtur abbotti* is here proposed for the Seychelles form of *T. picturatus*.

An Appendix gives a useful tabular list, showing the distribution of the 212 birds known from the entire Madagascan group of islands, from Mauritius to Comoro, and a bibliography — F. M. C.

Robinson's Birds of Margarita.² — In 1876, when the Smithsonian Institution sent Mr. F. W. Ober to make collections of birds in the Lesser Antilles, there were only two of the larger islands of the Caribbean basin, Cuba and Jamaica, of whose avifauna we possessed anything approaching a complete knowledge. It is an indication of the activity shown in ornithological research during the past twenty years that the island visited by Lieut. Robinson was the only one in the whole West Indian and Caribbean group which had not been more or less explored by ornithologists. Margarita, like Trinidad, is a continental island and has derived its avifauna from Venezuela, from which it is distant only seventeen miles. It is forty-two miles long and twenty and one-half miles wide in its greatest dimensions. The southern shore in the vicinity of Porlamar, where Lieut. Robinson landed, is "flat or gently rolling" and grown with scrubby thorn trees, cacti, etc. "About three miles inland foothills begin, which rise by leaps to a central peak, 3,240 feet in height," a sufficient height to condense the moisture of the warm trade-winds, giving a rainfall which produces a heavy forest.

Lieut. Robinson had only sixteen days' collecting on Margarita, but the fact that he began half an hour after landing is good evidence that he made the most of this time. He worked both in the dry coast region and in the mountain forests, securing 200 specimens and recording 73 species.

Of a number of these interesting biographical notes are given. Thus the calls of *Eupsychortyx pallidus* resemble those of our Bob-white, a marked instance of the stability of call-notes and suggesting common ancestry; *Bucco bicinctus* nests in holes in the dwellings of termites; the Buff-breasted Hummingbird feeds in part on fruit and has a song of decided character, and *Myiarchus tyrannulus*, like our own *Myiarchus*, uses a cast-off snake skin for home decoration, evidence of the antiquity of a habit which has doubtless persisted long after its cause has ceased to

¹ Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVI, 1893, pp. 4, 597-599; XVII, 1894, 371-373; Auk, XI, 1894, 74.

² An Annotated List of Birds Observed on the Island of Margarita, and at Guanta and Laguayra, Venezuela. By Wirt Robinson, First Lieutenant, Fourth U. S. Artillery, with Critical Notes and Description of New Species, by Charles W. Richmond, Assistant Curator, Department of Birds. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, 1896, pp. 649-685, one map.